

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a drug delivery implantable medical device, comprising:
 - applying a composition to an implantable medical device, the composition including a polymer, an active agent and a solvent;
 - allowing the solvent to evaporate to form a dry coating, the dry coating comprising less than about 2% residual fluid content (w/w);
 - applying a fluid to the dry coating, the fluid being substantially or completely free from any polymer; and
 - ~~allowing~~ removing the fluid ~~to evaporate~~ from the coating.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein fluid is substantially or completely free from any active agents.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the active agent is at least partially soluble in the fluid.
4. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, additionally comprising prior to applying the composition, forming a primer layer on a surface of the implantable medical device.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, additionally comprising forming a barrier layer on the dry coating wherein the application of the fluid is performed prior to forming the barrier layer.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the device is a stent.
7. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The method of Claim 1, additionally comprising forming a barrier layer on the dry coating wherein the application of the fluid is performed subsequent to forming the barrier layer such that the fluid is applied over the barrier layer.
8. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the polymer comprises an ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer, an ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer, poly(vinylidene fluoride-co-hexafluoropropene), poly(butylmethacrylate), or a combination of the same.
9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the dry coating comprises less than about 1% residual fluid content (w/w).
10. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the active agent is rapamycin, 40-O-(2-hydroxy)ethyl-rapamycin, paclitaxel, docetaxel, or a functional analog or structural derivative thereof.
11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein subsequent to the act of applying the fluid the total content of the active agent in the coating is at least 80% of the total content of the active agent in the coating prior to application of the fluid.
12. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the duration of exposure of the fluid is sufficient to decrease the release rate of the active agent from the coating after the coating has been implanted into a biological lumen.
13. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein applying the fluid includes spraying the fluid onto the coating or immersing the device into a bath of fluid.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein the device is immersed for about 30 minutes to about twelve hours.
15. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the fluid is selected from the group consisting of chloroform, acetone, water, dimethylsulfoxide, propylene glycol methyl ether, iso-propylalcohol, n-propylalcohol, methanol, ethanol, tetrahydrofuran, dimethylformamide, dimethylacetamide, benzene, toluene, xylene, hexane, cyclohexane, pentane, heptane, octane, nonane, decane, decalin, ethyl acetate, butyl acetate, isobutyl acetate, isopropyl acetate, butanol, diacetone alcohol, benzyl alcohol, 2-butanone, cyclohexanone, dioxane, methylene chloride, carbon tetrachloride, tetrachloroethylene, tetrachloroethane, chlorobenzene, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, formamide, hexafluoroisopropanol, 1,1,1-trifluoroethanol, acetonitrile, hexamethyl phosphoramidate and a combination thereof.
16. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the fluid is only applied to a portion of the device along the length of the device.
17. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the solvent and the fluid are different.
18. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein subsequent to the ~~evaporation~~ removal of the fluid, the release rate of the active agent is less than about 30% in 24 hours.
19. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the temperature of the fluid is greater than room temperature.
20. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the temperature of the fluid is equal to or greater than the glass transition temperature of the polymer.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1, wherein the application of the fluid to the dry coating causes the polymer in the coating to swell.
22. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the application of the fluid to the dry coating causes the percent crystallinity of the polymer in the coating to increase.
23. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the polymer is a blend of two or more polymers.
24. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the polymer is a semicrystalline polymer having about 10 to 75 percent crystallinity prior to the application of the fluid.
25. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1, wherein the polymer is an amorphous polymer.
26. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the polymer is a block copolymer or a graft copolymer.
27. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the polymer exhibits two or more glass transition temperatures, and wherein the temperature of the fluid is equal to or greater than the lowest exhibited glass transition temperature of the polymer.
28. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the polymer exhibits two or more glass transition temperatures, and wherein the temperature of the fluid is equal to or greater than the highest exhibited glass transition temperature of the polymer.
29. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a stent coating, comprising:

applying a composition to a stent, the composition including a semicrystalline polymer and a solvent;

allowing the solvent to evaporate to form a dry coating, the dry coating comprising less than about 2% residual fluid content (w/w); and

exposing the coating to a fluid for a sufficient duration to increase the crystallinity of the polymer in at least a portion of the coating, the fluid being substantially or completely free from any polymer; and

~~allowing~~ removing the fluid ~~to evaporate~~ from the coating.

30. (Original) The method of Claim 29, wherein the polymer has about 10 to 75 percent crystallinity prior to the act of exposing.
31. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 29, wherein the polymer comprises an ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer or poly(vinylidene fluoride-co-hexafluoropropene).
32. (Original) The method of Claim 29, wherein the dry coating comprises less than about 1% residual fluid content (w/w).
33. (Original) The method of Claim 29, wherein exposing the coating to a fluid includes immersing the stent into a bath of fluid.
34. (Original) The method of Claim 33, wherein the stent is immersed for about 30 minutes to about twelve hours.
35. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the polymer comprises a polyvinyl aromatic polymer.

36. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 29, wherein the polymer comprises a polyvinyl aromatic polymer.
37. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 29 wherein the composition further comprises an active agent.
38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the fluid is completely free from any polymer.
39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the fluid is completely free from any polymer and is substantially or completely free from the active agent.
40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the fluid is completely free from any polymer and is completely free from the active agent.
41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the fluid is completely free from the active agent.
42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the fluid is substantially free from the active agent.
43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the fluid is completely free from any polymer.
44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the fluid is substantially free from an active agent.
45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the fluid is completely free from an active agent.
46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the composition forms a reservoir layer and wherein the dry coating includes a barrier layer formed over the reservoir layer prior to application of the fluid.
47. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the fluid is removed by evaporation.
48. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein the fluid is removed by evaporation.

49. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein the fluid is completely free of any polymer and is completely free from an active agent.